

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: August 17, 2017

**Trustees Present:** Allen Blum, Jeff Brown, Sue Brown, Diane Fleishman, Michael Mandel, Susan Michelson, Ellen Torres, Dee Cook, Ned Rubin, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** Ann Berkson, Pearie Bruder, Jeff Lewis, Michael Lieberman

**Guest(s):** Bill Stein—TBE Rep to JFGEP, Eitan Lavi—President of JFGEP, Sue Bendalin—Campaign Director of JFGEP, Daniel Chejfec—Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFGEP)

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:01 pm.

**Invocation:** Rabbi Karol gave the Invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Ellen asked for acceptance of the minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Ned Rubin and seconded by Dee Cook to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

#### **Leadership / Board Reports**

A. **Rabbi's Report.** (Highlights) Complete report is attached.

The Rabbi reported that all Religious School teachers will be back this Fall. Shabbat on September 1 will start with a wine and cheese pre-neg at 5:45 pm and services at 6:15 pm. The family service will be held on September 8 at 6:00 pm at Sagecrest Park on Roadrunner, with a potluck afterwards. He reported on the value of his attendance at the New CAJE Conference.

B. **President's Report.** (Highlights) Complete report is attached.

President Ellen Torres reported that she is still in need of an Adult Education Committee Chair. She noted that the grant team and the Adult Ed Committee are working together for upcoming grant events. Meetings with Mike Batkin were held to refine the Irving Batkin fund to promote Jewish education. He increased his donation to the fund rather than just matching our members' donations. He has been very generous to TBE.

C. **Treasurer's Report.**

Current incoming Fair Share Pledges (FSP) are low now but usually increase during the first quarter. Monthly invoices will be generated; however, they will not be sent to those who have sent in their money. Allen has reached out to make sure all of those who need mailed statements get them.

### **Committee Reports:**

- A. Three Sisterhood Council reps have stepped down after serving for several years—Michele Blum, Brenda Parish, and Elisha Rosenberg. New council members are being sought and will be identified shortly. The Sisterhood brunch will be held on Sunday, September 10 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Temple
- B. The History Committee continues to review materials and plans to develop an exhibit of Jews in Las Cruces as they develop material in a usable and accessible fashion. However, it will take time to develop the materials for an exhibit, and the Board will need to determine where to set up a temporary or permanent exhibit.
- C. Social Action Committee has received an offer from Frances Williams to present a recorded speech by Martin Luther King, Jr, in 1991. It is hoped that the program can be held in conjunction with the NAACP. “Then and Now” is the tentative title and it will be used as a stepping stone to have us become a Sanctuary site that will be able to assist people in need with appropriate resources.

### **Old Business**

- A. Policy for use of social hall and kitchen. Policy is under revision by Ned Rubin and Dee Cook. Tabled for September 2017 meeting. (?)
- B. Allen Blum stated that help for the golf tournament is needed in many areas from seeing sponsors to a coordinator. If new support is not forthcoming the event may be cancelled. It is our second biggest fundraiser and will create a major hit to the budget.
- C. Allen Blum found that it is very difficult to get Temple Accounts at Office Max and Staples. Therefore we will just continue to use our 501.C3 tax exempt paperwork.
- D. The membership list was divided for Board members to make calls to members thanking them for being members, participating in Temple events, and paying their dues. The Executive Committee will make calls to members who are in arrears to see if there is anything we can do to help them to remain members and to establish a payment plan for their dues.
- E. On August 25 and 26 Rabbi Bob Alper, nationally known Jewish comedian, will perform at TBE. There will be a need for refreshments, especially for Saturday night.
- F. Tina Wasserman, noted Jewish cookbook author, will be here in November. Details will follow. These two events are sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. Alison Mann is overall Chair for the Wasserman event.
- G. The film Challah Rising in the Desert: A History of the Jews of New Mexico will be shown on September 10, 2017 at 2PM. The Producer will be here to have a Q & A session after the film. The film is scheduled to be shown nationally so we are privileged to have it here for one of its first showings. Refreshments will be needed.

- H. A motion was made by Ned Rubin and seconded by Michael Mandel to get plaques for significant donors (i.e., the new doors). Dee Cook stated that the Biblical Garden Committee will get plaques for the donors of trees in the garden.

### **New Business**

- A. Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director of JFGEP, gave an overview of the many services offered by the Federation, highlighting those specific to Las Cruces, and those planned for us in the future. He noted that there has been an increase in the funds raised and distributed in the past 2 years. Temple Beth El is the recipient of a grant from these funds, which allows us to have programs we could not otherwise afford. Sue Bendalin, the Campaign Director, would like to have a volunteer phone bank for Las Cruces and will provide training and support. Eitan Lavi, the President of JFGEP, stated that he is happy to be here and hopes to attend more of our TBE events.
- B. Mark Saltman will be sending an email to Board members regarding our High Holiday security plan.

### **Executive Session:**

We accepted two family units for membership:

Dave and Cheryl Decker

Rosalyn Richman and Selma P. Ryave

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

**Date of next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 12 @ 6:30 pm at TBE**

**Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday September 27@ 7:00 pm**